

News Briefs

New South Gate hours

Effective Monday, the South Gate will be open from 6 a.m. to midnight daily, including weekends.

BLAZE 6

The Columbus AFB BLAZE 6, an organization for enlisted personnel grades E-1 through E-6, will meet at 3:30 p.m. today at the 14th Services Division Complex.

PTL Class

A physical training leader certification class is from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday at the health and wellness center. This class is for active-duty servicemembers becoming unit PTLs. Class size is limited. To sign up, contact a unit fitness program manager; or for more information, call Staff Sgt. Clifton Somers at Ext. 2289 or Stephanie Atkins at Ext. 2908.

AFSA meetings

The Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 651 monthly membership meetings have changed for July and August. The group will meet at 3:30 p.m. July 22 at the radar approach control facility conference room and at 3:30 p.m. Aug. 12 at the community center. The group will begin meeting the first Friday of the month beginning in September. For more information about the AFSA organization, call Ext. 2021.

Inside



NEWS

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Air Force launches base resident survey to determine satisfaction of family housing occupants.

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.



Col. Stephen Wilson, 14th Flying Training Wing commander, passes the 14th Medical Group guidon to incoming 14th MDG commander Col. Susan Hall during a change-of-command ceremony Tuesday.

There’s a new ‘Doc’ in town
Hall assumes command of medical group

Airman Alyssa Wallace
14th Flying Training Wing

Col. Susan Hall assumed command of the 14th Medical Group from Col. David Armstrong during a change-of-command ceremony Tuesday.

Colonel Armstrong has been commander of the 14th MDG since July 2003 and will assume duties as deputy commander of the 81st Medical

Group at Keesler AFB, Miss.

Colonel Hall arrives to Columbus AFB from Aviano AB, Italy, where she was the commander of the 31st Medical Operations Squadron since 2003. There, she was responsible for primary healthcare delivery for more than 7,500 enrollees, civilian employees and others.

Colonel Hall earned her Bachelor of Science degree in 1973 at the

University of Alabama in Birmingham. After working as a staff nurse, She returned to UAB earning a Master of Science in Pediatric Nursing in 1975. She spent the next 11 years teaching nursing at several colleges and universities.

She was commissioned into the Air Force as a captain in 1986 and began her career as a staff nurse at Lackland AFB, Texas..

U.S. Air Force photo

COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE											
PHASE II				PHASE III				WING SORTIE BOARD			
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
37th (06-05)	-1.24 days	-3.86 days	July 21	48th (05-12)	0.36 days	0.73 days	July 22	T-37	1,206	715	23,651
41st (06-06)	2.56 days	-0.09 days	Aug. 11	50th (05-12)	1.72 days	0.55 days	July 22	T-38C	390	286	11,533
								T-1A	422	374	10,582
Graduation speaker: Brig. Gen. Jack Ramsaur, U.S. Strategic Command Global Operations											

FTAC graduates



Airman 1st Class Cecilia Rodriguez

The 14th Flying Training Wing congratulates the most recent First Term Airmen's Center graduates. Pictured are: (first row): Airman Krystal Daniels, 14th Comptroller Squadron; Airman 1st Class Christa Moreland, 14th Contracting Squadron; Airman 1st Class Rebekah Quinn, 14th Medical Support Squadron; Airman 1st Class Uriah Eichholz, 14th Operations Support Squadron; (second row): Airman 1st Class Dylan Smith, 14th OSS; Airman 1st Class LaRae Mayes, 14th OSS; Airman Alissa Wallace, 14th Flying Training Wing; Airman 1st Class Christopher Ellsworth, 14th Mission Support Squadron; Airman Cody Aragaki, 14th OSS; FTAC instructor Master Sgt. Shelli Fisher; (third row): Airman 1st Class Joshua McCluskey, 14th Communications Squadron; Airman 1st Class Joshua Lemke, 14th OSS; Airman 1st Class Nicholas Ward, 14th CS; Airman Charles Filkins, 14th Medical Operations Squadron; Airman James Ferris, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron; (fourth row): Airman Aaron Boothe, 14th OSS; and Airman Nicholas Holmer, 14th CES.

AAFES pulls pseudoephedrine from shelves

DALLAS — The Army & Air Force Exchange Service will remove products containing the solid form of pseudoephedrine from all store shelves effective July 31.

These items include Advil Flu & Sinus, Aleve Cold & Sinus, Claritin D and Tylenol Allergy Sinus.

The affected items will be replaced with products containing phenylephrine, an acceptable substitute for pseudoephedrine, as a relief for sinus congestion.

Tim Calkins, AAFES buyer for cold and cough products,

explained that AAFES has already identified the replacement products, and will start shipping them to AAFES stores in July before the start of the cold and cough season.

To date, 16 states have passed legislation restricting the availability of cough and cold medicines containing the drug pseudoephedrine in solid form. AAFES has decided that removal of these products from all of its stores is in the best interest of all military communities. (Courtesy of AAFES News Service)



Staff Sgt. Jay Moreau
14th Civil Engineer Squadron



The 14th Flying Training Wing thanks Sergeant Moreau for his work as a key member of the wing's Exercise Evaluation Team. The developmental innovations he created enhanced training applications and directly contributed to the wing's excellent Operational Readiness Inspection rating.

14TH FLYING TRAINING
WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 24 BLAZE TEAM members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the troops and their families while they are away.



SILVER WINGS

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Submission Deadline

The deadline for submitting copy for next week's SILVER WINGS is noon Monday. Articles may be dropped off at the public affairs office or e-mailed.

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CAFB residents urged to complete housing survey

WASHINGTON — An Air Force-wide base resident survey has been launched to determine the level of satisfaction of family housing residents at installations worldwide.

The survey provides base-housing residents and housing managers an opportunity to respond to survey questions regarding housing facilities and services delivered. At installations with privatized housing, property managers will also participate in the survey.

“We encourage all residents to complete their survey as soon as possible,” said Maj. Gen. L. Dean Fox, the Air Force Civil Engineer. “The more participants we have,

the more accurate our results will be and the greater emphasis we can place on making the recommended changes.”

Stateside residents should have received their surveys in June, while overseas residents should receive surveys by late summer or early fall, officials said.

The survey is customized for Air Force residents and will take about five minutes to complete.

“Efforts to assess resident satisfaction have historically been undertaken at the installation level,” said Col. Bob Griffin, Air Force Housing Division chief. “Using standardized surveys will allow us to make valid com-

parisons of the data collected. I encourage every Air Force family residing in government-owned or privatized housing to participate.”

Each resident will be provided a pre-addressed, postage-paid envelope to return the survey.

Survey results are confidential and anonymous. The survey asks residents to respond to questions related to the physical property, services and management’s performance. With the cooperation and candid responses by residents, the Air Force can collect important information that will be used to identify areas where improvements are required.

An executive summary of the survey results will be provided to senior leaders at the wing, major command and Air Staff levels and used as a basis for decisions regarding the Air Force’s Military Housing Privatization Initiative, military construction needs and the future of family housing. *(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)*

Force Shaping Phase II evolves for fiscal 2006

Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — The Air Force achieved its congressionally mandated active-duty end strength of 359,700 Airmen for fiscal 2005. The Air Force had exceeded that ceiling until now.

Force Shaping Phase II initiatives successfully reduced the overall size of the force; however, the Air Force still has more officers than authorized and Phase II will continue into the next fiscal year, beginning Oct. 1.

“We will now limit voluntary separation opportunities for active-duty enlisted Airmen, while maintaining voluntary programs for officers,” said Brig. Gen. Glenn Spears, force management policy director on the director of personnel staff at the Pentagon.

“We met our goals to balance and reduce excesses in our enlisted force, and we must continue to focus on shaping the officer force in size and skills,” he said.

Two force-shaping initiatives for the enlisted force will be retained: the “Blue to Green” option and the career job reservation program.

“Airmen who do not wish to obtain a CJR or do not want to refrain may apply to transfer to the Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard via Palace Chase, transfer to



Airmen 1st Class Cecilia Rodriguez
Second Lt. Matthew Hinze swears into the Army under the “Blue to Green” program. This Force Shaping initiative allows Airmen the option of an inter-service transfer instead of an Air Force discharge.

the Army via the Blue to Green program, apply for opportunities in civil service or separate upon fulfillment of their enlistment,” General Spears said.

For Air Force officers, force-shaping opportunities are still available and will continue until the Air Force meets its end strength numbers for 2006.

“We currently have more officers than allowed by law, particularly in the junior grades,” General Spears said. “This excess produces operational and fiscal costs — it restricts

their opportunities to serve and to develop as leaders in our force, and it takes dollars from other validated requirements. Therefore, we will continue to offer a variety of programs for these officers to voluntarily leave the Air Force. If there are insufficient volunteers, we will have to consider other options.”

The latest force-shaping opportunities are now available on the Air Force Personnel Center Web site at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/retsep/shape2.htm.

Employee input needed for NSPS

The National Security Personnel System includes a new way for Department of Defense organizations to evaluate and recognize performance. As DOD designs the performance management element of the new system, they are identifying several standard performance factors which will be used across DOD to assess employee performance. Such factors or competencies may include teamwork, leadership, technical proficiency and achieving results.

The Defense Department needs input from General Schedule employees and managers by their voluntary participation in a survey to rate the relevancy or importance of certain competencies and activities in the work they perform on a daily basis. Participation is strongly encouraged.

Civilian BLAZE TEAM members can access the survey between now and Wednesday at www.pfsurvey.net/nsps/. The survey takes about 15 to 20 minutes and input is anonymous. For questions or more information, call Roy Wood at Ext. 2637.

Dental clinic solicits customer feedback

The 14th Medical Group is implementing a new process for obtaining timely feedback from its patients about their dental visits.

An e-mail will be sent to each patient within a few days following a dental appointment to obtain feedback on the quality of the service they received related to their appointment.

This is a test project to evaluate the usefulness of obtaining feedback via e-mail. Patients’ participation and feedback are encouraged to ensure that their needs and expectations are met.

For questions concerning this program, call Master Sgt. Kevin Rogers at Ext. 2846 or Ext. 2250.

More responsibility



Courtesy photo

The 14th Flying Training Wing congratulates the July enlisted promotees. Pictured are: (front row) to airman: Jason Dinsmoor, 14th Medical Support Squadron; to airman first class: Patrick King, 14th Operations Support Squadron; to senior airman: Alfonso Rosales, 14th Medical Operations Squadron; to airman first class: Michael Peecook, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron; to senior airman: Kimberly Cirone, 14th MDOS; Jennifer Hickey, 14th OSS; (back row) to staff sergeant: Aric Bramlett, 14th Communications Squadron; to senior airman: Josh Boomgarden, 14th MDOS; to master sergeant: George Owen, 14th CES; to technical sergeant: Shawn Naus, 14th Mission Support Squadron; to senior airman: William Naron, 14th OSS; Joel Johnson, 14th OSS; and Christoph Kettermann, 14th MDOS. Not pictured are: to airman: Cody Aragaki, 14th OSS; to senior airmen: Monica Aimua, 48th Flying Training Squadron; Franco D'allesandro, 14th SFS; Adonna Scarbrough, 14th OSS; and to technical sergeant: Heather Deckley, 14th FTW.

TRICARE patients chosen to participate in new heart failure prevention program

Humana Military Healthcare Services recently announced the beginning of a Heart Failure Disease Management Program for about 8,000 TRICARE beneficiaries in South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

Under the program, selected TRICARE patients with a history of heart disease will be contacted by a registered nurse who, working with managing physicians, will identify problems, establish goals and monitor those goals through regular follow-up.

Patients will also be able to contact their assigned nurses to review treatment plans and to get answers to questions that arise as treatment is administered.

“The program’s goal is to improve the patients’ symptoms, their functional abilities and their overall quality of life by closely monitoring their treatment program and their regular activities,” said Dr. John Crm, Humana Military’s chief medical officer. “This is a program that has one purpose and one purpose alone – to help patients effectively deal with a very serious medical condition.”

The new disease management unit will be based in Louisville, Ky. Access for patients and physicians will be available through a dedicated toll-free telephone number. “Humana Military Healthcare Services looks forward to having a positive impact on the quality of life for members of the military community affected by heart disease,” said Rose Mary Royalty, program director. “Numerous studies have shown that regular, targeted involvement of medical professionals in the care regimen leads to slower progression of heart disease and better understanding of what patients can do to help themselves.”

Participation in the program will be strictly voluntary. Patients will be identified and contacted on the basis of their medical history.

Those who join the program will receive a special packet of materials, including a “Heart Failure Self Management Guide,” to assist in monitoring symptoms and prescribed treatments. Humana nurses will also contact the patients’ physicians to coordinate participation. *(Courtesy of Humana Military Healthcare Services)*

New housing allowances won’t result in pay cuts

Army Sgt. Sara Wood
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Defense officials are eliminating the “geographic rate protection” clause that ensures servicemembers moving to a new area receive the same housing allowance as those already living there.

Geographic rate protection is expiring in January because basic allowance for housing rates have reached a level where servicemembers no longer have to pay out-of-pocket expenses for housing, said Col. Virginia Penrod, Defense Department director of military compensation.

Colonel Penrod stressed that the housing allowance rate is set at the average housing cost for the area. Rates are further set based on military rank, with each pay-grade level having a set acceptable standard of housing.

Servicemembers may still have to pay some out-of-pocket expenses if they choose to live above that level. Conversely, if servicemembers choose to live below the average level, they will still receive the same BAH rate.

Servicemembers still have “individual rate protection” as long as they stay within the same geographic area. If average housing costs in a given geographic area go down, people already living in that area continue to receive the higher amount.

However, servicemembers moving into that area receive the lower amount. Geographic rate protection was a temporary protection put into effect to prevent people of the same pay grade living in the same area from getting different amounts of housing allowance.

Rate protection was instituted in 2000 to ensure BAH rates were the same among like-pay grade individuals living in the same area while troops were still paying part of their own housing expenses, Colonel Penrod said.

Now that housing allowance rates are high enough to cover servicemembers’ entire housing expenses, geographic rate protection is not necessary, she said.

Under the new BAH guidelines, a servicemember moving to a new area will receive the appropriate allowance rate for that area, regardless of whether troops already living there are receiving a higher rate, the colonel said.

DUI status

“Don’t Drink and Drive”

Last DUI: June 10, 2005

Days since last DUI: 36

Unit: 14th Civil Engineer Squadron



Terrorism — Stealing or ‘steeling’ our resolve?

Col. David Lewis
14th Operations Group



Think like a warfighter. That is our challenge; no matter how isolated we may seem from actual combat operations. Prepare yourself for the day when, not if, you will find yourself in combat against our enemies. Recent terrorist attacks in London have rekindled debates about the Global War on Terrorism.

There should be no doubt in our minds that we are in a protracted war against an enemy with extremist and very dangerous ideologies. So what is the nature of this war? Where do we stand? When will this war be over?

You may believe that such complicated issues are exclusively for our political leadership to ponder and that our job is simply to execute the military operations required to fight this war. Let me turn to a couple of time-tested theorists to illustrate why those who serve in our armed forces should seek answers to these questions as well.

First, one of oldest military thinkers — Sun Tzu, whose timeless essay “The Art of War” implores us to “know the enemy and know yourself; in a hundred battles you will never be in peril.” Who is the enemy, and why do they attack the targets they do?

No matter how high the rhetoric rises, we must first remember that we are not at war against Islam. Equating “Islamic Fundamentalists” with terrorism is a mistake as well, for all good Muslims consider themselves fundamentalist in nature.

Those who hide behind the cowardly attacks in the name of a cause are truly “extremist” in nature, and seek to alter both Islamic and Western societies in many ways, especially economically.

Understanding the terrorist’s choice of targets is com-

plex. Some will argue these attacks are not truly acts of war, since they are carried out largely against innocent “non-combatants” in our traditional way of thinking.

Carl von Clausewitz, the brilliant strategist of the 19th century, defined war as “an act of force to compel [the] enemy to do [your] will” and again as “a clash between major interests, which is resolved by bloodshed.” Both of these fit the GWOT; thus I contend the terrorist attacks in New York, Washington D.C., Madrid and London are indeed acts of war. Why attack these cities?

Much has been written post-9/11 about reasons for the al-Qaeda attacks. Remarkable scholarship by Professor William Fuller highlights no less than five different “audiences” for terrorist attacks based on a historical view of terror as a weapon over several centuries.

The first audience is a specific government. The attacks in Madrid were effective in that they resulted in Spain withdrawing their troops from coalition operations in Iraq.

The second audience is a “constituent” population, traditionally the population of specific country where the acts of terror occur. In a contemporary context, the al-Qaeda goal would be all of the people practicing the Islamic faith.

Third, is a “non-constituent” audience, traditionally the population of a separate state such as France in the Algerian revolution in the 1950s.

The fourth audience is international public opinion, typically designed to give publicity and hopefully generate sympathy for your cause.

The final audience is the “rank and file” members of the terrorist organization itself. The “propaganda of the deed” is designed to provide a dividend — that is to show tangible evidence of progress being made toward the cause.

A terrorist attack will influence all five of these audi-

ences, and a terror strategist must carefully balance the intended and the unintended consequences of the act.

Looking at the recent attacks in London, we can only surmise that al-Qaeda and their shadowy network of

“wannabes” are trying desperately to generate support and demonstrate their viability among a constituent population, and perhaps even recruit for the terrorist organizations themselves.

To attack America’s staunchest ally in the war on terror was foolish strategically. One needs only to consider the remarkable resolve of the London population during the Battle of Britain in World War II.

At a time when our political leadership was under considerable attack for policies in pursuit of ending terrorism, this attack will serve only to galvanize

international opinion against the terrorists.

Such attacks will never “steal” but rather “steel” our resolve to conduct the long, hard slog against terror. This will be a long struggle; for we are engaged in what journalist Thomas Friedman calls a “war of ideas.”

When will the GWOT be over? The answer is easy — when terror is no longer the preferred method to achieve their aims. Achieving that answer is anything but easy.

The seeds of democracy, sowed by our coalition in the countries of Afghanistan and Iraq, will not only deny terrorists the sanctuary they so desperately need, but provide alternatives to populations repressed under reigns of terror for so long.

Our goal is to make terrorism obsolete; it is a very long and arduous road, and it will occupy much, if not all of our lifetimes. To all of us in the military: prepare yourself, know your enemy, and stay vigilant. Expect the magnitude of these atrocious attacks by desperate and vicious people to continue to escalate. The will to fight is paramount. Think like a warfighter.

“Expect the magnitude of these atrocious attacks by desperate and vicious people to continue to escalate. The will to fight is paramount. Think like a warfighter.”

Straight Talk Line

The Straight Talk Line is your direct line to the commander for comments and suggestions on how to make Columbus AFB better.

Although the Straight Talk Line is always available, the best way to resolve problems is through the chain of command.

The Straight Talk Line phone number is 434-7058. Callers should leave their full name and phone number to receive an answer.

All names are kept confidential. Messages are answered in Silver Wings without names.

Written questions may be dropped off at the public affairs office in the wing headquarters building, Bldg. 724.

People can also access the Straight Talk program through the Blazeweb at <https://columbusweb> and the main Web site at www.columbus.af.mil. Questions and answers will be edited for brevity.

BLAZE TEAM speaks — Whom do you admire as a professional?



Capt. James Otoski
14th Operations Support Squadron

Laurence Brooks from the education office. He answered the questions I had about the Montgomery G.I. Bill and he followed up on it the next day with [the command.] He was very professional.



Master Sgt. John Calhoun
14th Medical Support Squadron

My father, who was — in short — a perfectionist. He took pride in work. He emphasized to me that if I did something, I had to do my best at it, as if my life depended on it.



Senior Airman Christopher Wells
14th Civil Engineer Squadron

President [George W.] Bush. He’s dedicated to what he does and determined to complete the task at hand.



Airman 1st Class Everett Cooper
14th Mission Support Squadron

Senior Master Sgt. Cristi Bowes. She knows her job! She’s one of those people you can go to about anything, and she’ll have an answer. I’m not trying to kiss up, it’s the truth.

TESTING

(Continued from Page 5)

Many members think they are being tested because they just returned from leave or a deployment or TDY. This is not true.

Most of the time members who test after returning were selected while they were gone. If your name happens to come up while you are gone, then the squadron’s trusted agent — the person who notifies you — will give us the date you are due back. When the member returns, the trusted agent will contact him or her and send them to the drug testing site. Upon arrival, the member is required to provide a 40 ml sample of urine.

This year we have had several positive samples resulting from prescription medications. It is very important that prescription drugs are documented in the member’s medical and dental records. Samples that come back positive are reviewed by the medical review officer for documentation of prescription drugs. If there is no documentation, the member is considered to be using those drugs illegally. If that is the case, the Office of Special Investigations, 14th Security Forces Squadron, legal office and the Airman’s commander will be notified for further action. If you are taking prescription drugs, please make sure they are documented, and do not use prescriptions that are not prescribed for you. Such a risk could end your career.

The drug testing program is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and until noon Thursdays. If you would like more information about the program or would like to set up briefings on prevention, please call our office at Ext. 2353 and either Ms. Brown or I will be happy to assist you.

Professionalism, integrity, humility: Difference between ‘good’ and ‘great’

Lt. Col. Jeff Smith

47th Operations Support Squadron

LAUGHLIN AFB, Texas —

The Air Force does not need good men and good women; rather, it needs great men and great women. We need individuals willing to take the personal tools that we’ve been given and diligently forge them into skills of greatness. Not greatness for ourselves, but greatness for service service to humanity.

As I reflect on the great men and women that I have been honored to serve with, I have noticed three distinctive characteristics that make the difference between good and great: Professionalism, Integrity, and Humility.

Professionalism is ensuring that the job we are given is done right. When we complete a task, we must be willing to sign our name to it and consider it a personal beacon, a reflection of who we are and what we bring to the fight. Our deeds define our reputation and our repu-

tation defines our lives.

Our professionalism is measured every day by the passion in which we seek lasting solutions and by the spirit of excellence that we demand of ourselves and of those around us.

Do not be fooled. When the uniform comes off and the duty day is over, professionalism does not get hung in the closet. Our professionalism is not defined by the clock on the wall; rather it is defined by who we are every moment of every day. Whether in blues in parade, BDUs in battle, or jeans at a club downtown, we must all reflect a beacon of professionalism that cannot be extinguished.

If professionalism is doing the job right, then integrity is doing the right job. While professionalism is a beacon of our lives, integrity is the banner of our heart. A man or woman who cannot be trusted will not ever reach the level of greatness that our military calling requires.

My father taught me that it takes a long time to build trust and only a moment to lose it. Our lives, what

we say, what we sign, and what we claim to believe cannot be laden with folly. In our profession, there is simply too much at stake. Instead, we must build a banner of integrity that is beyond reproach, beyond question.

Finally, it is the virtue of humility that will lead our lives to greatness. We are taught to “do nothing out of vain conceit or selfish ambition, but in humility consider others greater than ourselves.”

A man without humility risks intoxication by his own perceived power. True greatness, the kind of greatness needed throughout our military service, will only be found in those rare individuals that seek wise council, admit when they are wrong, and allow others to take the credit for success.

Professionalism, Integrity, Humility: characteristics that empower our ability to serve. Our individual challenge is to continually develop and improve all three. They simply make the difference between good and great.

How 40 mL can break your career

Senior Airman Jennifer Hullman
14th Medical Operations Squadron

It’s a dirty job, but someone has to do it. That “someone” is our office: the Demand Reduction Program Manager, Vanessa Brown, and myself, the Drug Testing Program Administrative Manager.

My job is to collect, package and transport urine specimens collected on a daily basis to the medical laboratory.

I also verify that results are received and take appropriate action on those that come back positive or untestable.

What I do is very important in the drug testing process, and I would like to share the process and importance of the Air Force Drug Abuse Testing Program.

The main goal of the program is to maintain the health and wellness of a fit

and ready fighting force and a drug-free Air Force community.

We need to deter military members, either those already in the Air Force or those on initial entry, from abusing illegal drugs and other illicit substances.

Over the years, the Air Force has achieved the lowest illicit drug rate within the Department of Defense.

Although we are proud of this fact, Maj. Gen. James Roudebush said data gathered over the years shows that we must do more to deter 18- to 25-year-old, high-risk servicemembers from making poor life choices.

At these ages, Airmen are four times more likely to test positive for illicit drugs. This is where Smart Testing comes in — a computerized selection program randomly selects members in the ranks of

E-1 to E-4 and O-1 to O-2 at a rate of one test per member per year.

All other members remain subject to the current rate of 65 percent tested per year. The modifications to the program will ensure an increase in deterrence for at-risk members.

With an active-duty population of more than 1,500 Airmen on Columbus AFB, we stay busy. Testing is conducted on a daily basis. If it’s not a normal random testing day provided by the Drug Testing Computer, we have return to duty testing, which means members who were unavailable for testing on the day of selection because they were flying, on leave or TDY, will come in to test upon return to duty.

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Training foreign forces in AF special ops

Capt. Tom Montgomery
Air Force Special Operations Command

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. — The 6th Special Operations Squadron here is the only unit in the U.S. military with a wartime mission to assess, train, advise and assist foreign aviation forces. The squadron’s Airmen are constantly operating in the most dangerous corners of the world where terrorists, warlords and criminals thrive.

In these environments, the air commandos in the 6th SOS train foreign allies to use and sustain air power. “Our ability to train and advise foreign aviation forces has more long-term, strategic relevance in the war on terrorism and insurgency than direct tactical actions by United States forces,” said Jerry Klingaman, squadron director of strategy and plans. “We offer a strategy of military enablement, and that’s crucial to our current national security posture.”

The 6th SOS prepares for this task with advanced training. Upon acceptance to the squadron, it takes an Airman nearly a year of training to become mission qualified.

The unit teaches foreign forces to maintain, fly and fight in myriad aircraft. Some of the aircraft they are proficient in are Russian and the wording on the gauges use Cyrillic characters.

Equally important, the squadron’s Airmen have annual language training. Training also includes advanced weapons skills and instruction covering regional and political issues.

The post-Cold War world has made it imperative for the United States to develop overseas partnerships and realign its forces to meet emerging threats. The U.S. will also need to rely more on the ability of allies to defend themselves and assist in fighting terrorists.

U.S. Special Operations Command has been tasked as the lead command for planning the war on terrorism. As such, Air Force Special Operations Command is the air component for this challenge and is developing more capabilities to accomplish these missions. There is recent guidance to significantly increase the size of the 6th SOS which currently has more than 30 Air Force job specialties represented in a unit comprising about 100 Airmen.

The squadron’s Airmen recently returned from a mission in North Africa where they taught improved and specialized tactics and techniques. The training these air forces receive is critical to keep their ground forces resupplied and combat-ready.

As terrorist groups, bandits, and rebels have exploited the region as a safe haven, North Africa presents a serious challenge for the Airmen. The Sahara and Pan Sahel regions span across an area as large as the continental U.S. where human existence is barely possible with 130-degree temperatures and bone-dry deserts. It is the perfect place for a terrorist to hide, and the hardest place for less-developed governments to find and engage the enemy.

“It’s not easy to keep the ground troops resupplied via convoy vehicles in the region because if the bandits or land mines don’t get you, the heat will. So, we teach them to use air power,” said a mission commander. Special operations Airmen’s names are not released for security reasons.

The lieutenant colonel, who speaks French, led a team

that taught advanced fixed and rotary wing tactics in a C-130 Hercules and an Mi-17. In North Africa, the people speak French, Arabic and tribal languages.

“When we got the pilots ready and they began to fly supplies into austere landing strips, we were heroes to their army guys,” the colonel said. “And, when it came time to leave the country, the government wanted us to stay.”

The squadron is aligned to accomplish its mission worldwide, and Airmen are assigned to a flight where their regional and language abilities will be useful.

The Southern Command flight recently conducted training in Colombia that resulted in the Colombian military being able to conduct joint insertion and extraction missions with night-vision goggles.

“For Colombia, our efforts resulted in the first ever use of NVG capability in a joint combat search and rescue operation,” said a mission commander there. The major is a native Spanish speaker and fixed-wing pilot.

“Narcotics and terrorism go hand in hand,” Mr. Klingaman said. “And Colombia remains a hotbed for this activity. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia have been at war with the Colombian government for decades, funding their insurgency through extortion, kidnapping and narcotics sales.”

The squadron also enhanced the Colombian’s ability to use their AC-47 gunship in close-air support and other missions.

“We don’t teach them how to fly the aircraft. We teach them how to use the aircraft’s full capabilities and how to use it as a tactical weapon system,” Mr. Klingaman said.

The squadron also operates in another hotbed for terrorism. Southeast Asia has emerged as a haven for radical Islamic terrorist groups like al Qaeda. The Philippine government has been fighting against numerous such groups.

Special operations Airmen recently trained Philippine airmen as quick-reaction combat lifesavers. The team of instructors from the 6th SOS included pilots, maintainers, security forces, pararescuemen and medics trained as international health specialists.

“Before our mobile training team arrived, the Philippine air force had the ability to take off and land during the day.



After our training, they were able to conduct multiple aircraft, multiple formation infiltration and exfiltration missions at night on NVGs with gunnery and with combat lifesavers rappelling and fast-roping out to save lives,” said a 6th SOS major who was a mission commander.

It was not easy to go from basic flying to where they are today. To train the lifesavers to do intravenous procedures in a helicopter encountering turbulence, a 6th SOS technical sergeant took the Philippine combat lifesavers on a bouncing deuce-and-a-half truck to practice on each other.

“Immediately after our first iterations of training, the Philippine air force was called in to do a combat exfil and they saved the lives of three Philippine ... soldiers on an NVG helo medevac,” said the major.

These internationally savvy warrior-teachers continue to operate worldwide, allowing friendly forces to bring air and space power to the fight. Their unique mission and training make them a key component to the capability to fight terrorists on foreign soil. As this mission grows, leaders have also expressed their desire to grow this squadron of air commandos.

14th SVS offers variety of entertainment

Comedy night: People can begin purchasing tickets today at the Columbus Club for the comedy night show July 30 . The show begins at 8 p.m. and will feature comedians “Whodi” and “Kid Dave.” A disc jockey will begin playing jazz music before the show at 7 p.m. and afterward around 10 p.m. Advance tickets are \$5 for club members, \$7 for nonmembers and must be purchased by 5 p.m. July 29. Tickets at the door are \$7 for club members and \$9 for nonmembers. Call Ext. 2490.

All-you-can-eat lunch buffet: During July, the Columbus Club introduces its new summer time lunch buffets for \$4.95 for everyone. Lunch is served Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tuesday features a mega-salad bar and potato bar, Wednesday is fried chicken and smoked barbecue brisket with all the sides, Thursdays is pork ribs, pulled pork, chicken wings and sloppy Joes with all the sides, and Fridays is fish and chips with the mega-sized salad bar.

The a la carte menu is also available with a new 12-minute guarantee. If a customer’s order is not ready in 12-minutes, his or her lunch is free. Call Ext. 2490.

Boss and buddy night: The Columbus Club offers an all-ranks boss and buddy night from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursdays in the Landing Lounge. Draft beverages are \$1, and there is a free taco bar for club members. Nonmembers pay \$2.95 for the taco bar. Call Ext. 2490.

Champagne Sunday brunch: The Columbus Club offers this combination of breakfast and lunch entrees from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday. Cost is \$9.95 for club members and \$12.95 for nonmembers. Ages 6 to 12 eat for \$5 while ages 5 and younger eat free. Call Ext. 2490.

Youth center Spanish camp: The youth center’s Spanish camp is from 9 to 11:30 a.m. July 25 through July 29 for ages 6 to 9. Cost is \$20 for youth center members and \$25 for nonmembers. Call Ext. 2504.

Home decor classes: A variety of home decor classes are available at the arts and crafts center.

People can build a Japanese step cabinet-styled entertainment center at 10:30 a.m. or 6:30 a.m. Thursday. Cost is \$50 and

Masterpieces in the making



Ariante Delacruz receives pointers from art instructor Jacquelyn Junkins as Lanie Moreau and Karina Canfield work on their art projects at the Columbus AFB youth center. The youth center offers several camps during the summer months and is currently registering ages 6 to 12 for its upcoming after-school program. For more information, call Ext. 2504.

includes supplies. The entire center measures 46 inches by 43 inches by 24 inches. The television compartment measures 41 inches by 32 inches by 21 inches with two storage units underneath.

People can also build a companion step storage unit for the entertainment center at 10:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. July 28. Cost is \$50 and includes all supplies except decorative door pulls. The storage units measure 36 inches by 36 inches by 24 inches. To sign up, call Ext. 7836.

Stampin’ Up workshop: Crafters can create five hand-stamped projects during this workshop from 9 to 11 a.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, or from 1 to 3 p.m. July 23 at the 14th Services Division Complex. Cost is \$15, including a \$10 credit on purchases made in the class. Participants must register at the youth center. Call Ext. 2504.

Club membership night: Club members and their families are invited to the “Summer Splash” party at Independence Pool from 5:30 to 8 p.m. July 26. There will be free food and beverages, door

prizes and contests. Call Ext. 2490.

Summer reading program awards: The base library’s “Share the Treasure with Captain Book” summer reading program awards day for children in first through sixth grades is at 1 p.m. July 27. Call Ext. 2934.

Back-to-school shopping trip: A back-to-school shopping trip to the Riverchase Galleria and Watermark Outlet Malls in Birmingham, Ala., Aug. 6. The bus will depart at 8 a.m. and return around 6 p.m. Call Ext. 7861.

Casino dinner trip: The information, ticket and travel office offers a trip to the Silver Star Casino in Philadelphia, Miss., Aug. 19. Cost is \$25 for club members, \$28 for nonmembers, and includes transportation, \$15 in coins and a free buffet dinner. Call Ext. 7861.

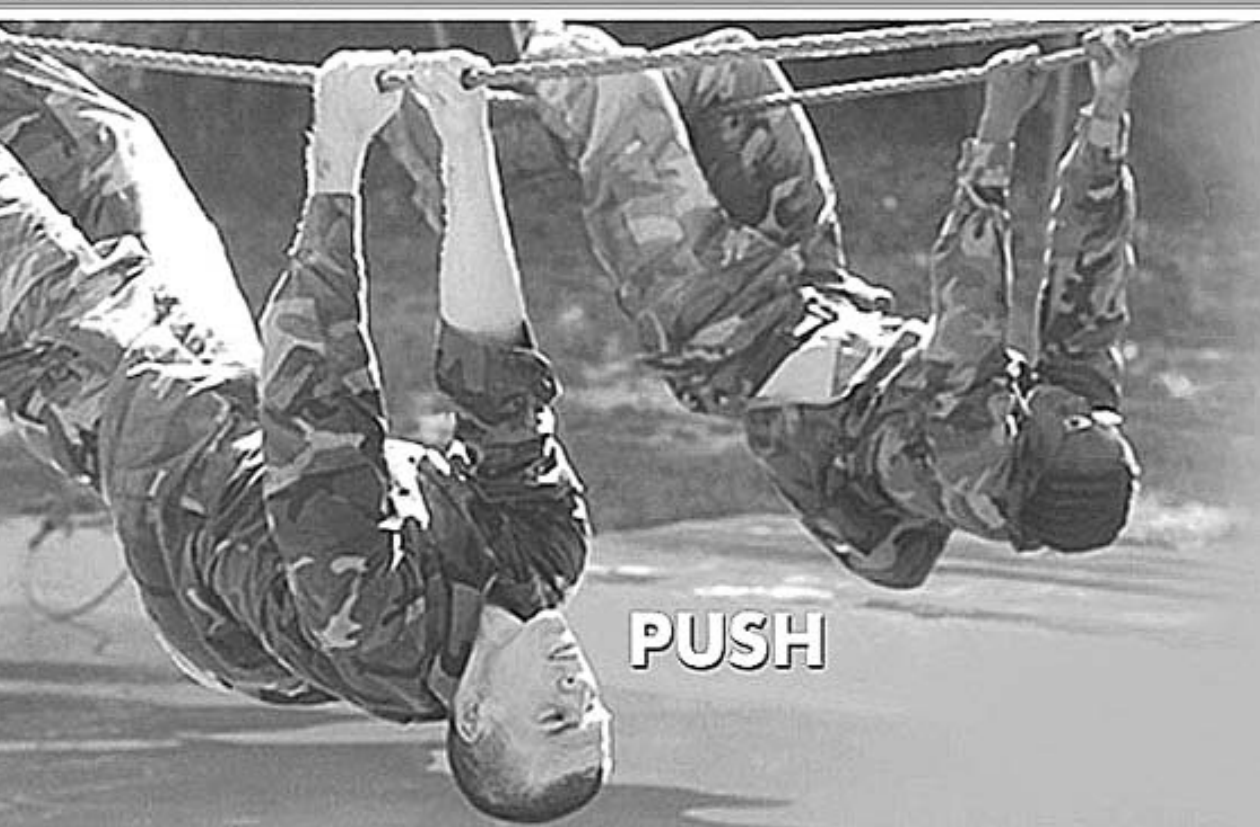
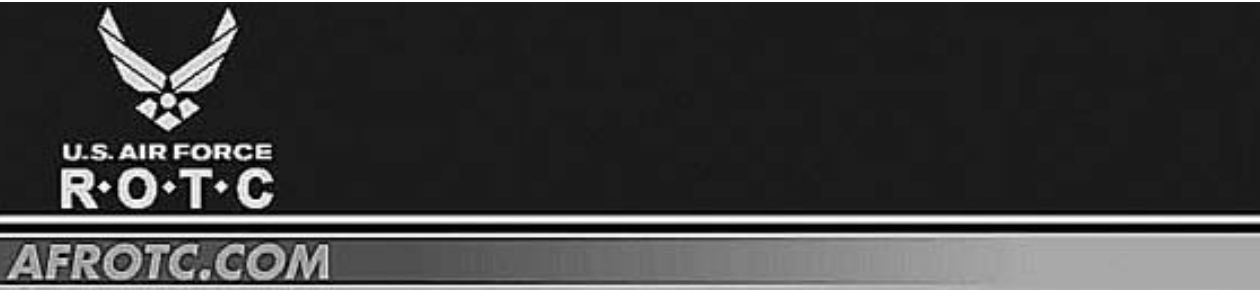
White water rafting trip: The information, ticket and travel office offers a trip to Ocoee, Tenn., to ride the white water rapids

Aug. 20 through Aug. 22. Cost is \$105 per person for club members and \$120 for nonmembers. Cost includes a half river trip, transportation, two nights lodging and three meals. Call Ext. 7861.

Bowling center pro shop specials: The bowling center offers a red, white and blue single-ball bowling bag for \$17 while supplies last and a 10-percent discount on all regularly priced items in the pro shop. Call Ext. 2426.

Lunch and bowl for \$5: The bowling center offers a lunch and bowl special from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. Patrons can bowl two games, receive free shoe rental, and their choice of a cheeseburger or hot dog, fries and regular drink for \$5. Call Ext. 2426.

National KidsDay: The youth center invites families to participate in this year’s National KidsDay celebration from 4 to 8 p.m. Aug. 6 at Freedom Park. There will be food, games and demonstrations. Call Ext. 2504.



AFROTC

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AFROTC is a 2- to 4-year program that produces officers to serve on active duty in the Air Force for a 4-year commitment

Who can join?

- Students who:
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 - * Have a 2.0 grade point average or higher
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What are the benefits of active duty?

- * \$38,000 starting salary
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What scholarships are available?

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- * College Scholarship Program: High school seniors only

For more information, contact Mississippi State University Detachment 425 at (662) 325-3810 or logon to www.msstate.edu/dept/afrotc/

Base Notes

Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop, located at Building 345, C Street, is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursdays during July. Consignments are accepted during business hours until one hour before closing. Volunteers are welcome. For more information, call 434-2954.

Math CLEP preparatory

The education center offers a mathematics CLEP preparatory class from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Aug. 8 through Aug. 10 in Classroom 11 of Building 916. Twelve seats are available and registration is a first come, first served basis. The class is designed to sharpen mathematics skills for the Mathematics General CLEP exam Aug. 11. To sign up or for more information, call the education center at Ext. 2562.

COSC social

The Columbus Officers' Spouses' Club opens its new season with a membership drive and special activities social at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 9 at the Columbus Club. Hors d'oeuvres will be served. Cost is \$12 per person, and club members receive a \$2 discount. New members are welcome. For reservations, contact Jennifer Wood at woodtjig@cableone.net or 425-6059 by noon Aug. 4.

Commissary hours

The Sunday commissary hours of operation have changed; the store opens at 11 a.m. and closes at 5 p.m. Store hours for the rest of the week are as follows: closed Monday; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday; and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday. For more information, call the commissary at Ext. 7109.

Family Support Center

(Editor's note: All activities are offered at the family support center unless otherwise specified. For more information about any of the activities listed, call Ext. 2790.)

Limited services

There will be limited services available at the family support center from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday and from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Friday due to an official function.

Spouse welcome

A welcome reception for spouses new to Columbus AFB is from 10 to 11 a.m. every Wednesday at the Magnolia Inn Lobby. Spouses will receive gifts and information about the family support center.

Local employment

A workshop about employment opportunities with local businesses, the 14th Services Division and government applications is from 1 to 2 p.m. every Wednesday. Resumes and other job applications will also be discussed.

Smooth move

A workshop for relocating families is from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday. Participants will learn what to expect from the travel management office, housing, military pay, legal, billeting, Tricare and the family support center. Registration is required by Monday.

Single parents social

A social gathering for single parents and their children is from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday at DeWayne Hayes Recreational Park. Food will be provided. Participants must sign up by Tuesday.

Hearts Apart social

A social gathering for families of personnel deployed or remote for more than 30 days is from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday. Information, refreshments and prizes are provided.

Financial management

A workshop about back-to-school financial management planning is at 11 a.m. Thursday.

School re-registration

Registration for school-age children who have previously attended the Columbus Municipal School District is from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. July 25 at the family support center. New students must be registered at the district office. For more information, call the family support center.

PDF, Jr.

Ages 6 to 12 are invited to participate in this youth-oriented deployment program at 9 a.m. July 26. Children will learn what happens during their parents' TDY or deployment tasking. Registration is limited to 75 children. To sign up, call the family support center.

Sponsorship training

A workshop designed for all unit introduction monitors is at 9 a.m. July 26. Training includes the importance of effective sponsorship and resources available for both sponsors and newcomers.

Time management

A workshop on effective time management is from 9 a.m. to noon July 27. Participants will learn how to prioritize, set realistic goals and break large goals into smaller ones. They will also receive tips on how to execute daily lists, identify external and internal "time wasters," reduce confusing communication and develop ideas for becoming better organized. Registration is required by July 25.

Chapel Schedule

Free childcare

The Childcare for PCS program offers up to 20 hours of free childcare per child for active-duty Air Force people arriving at or departing from Columbus AFB. Certificates are available within 60 days of departure or arrival. For more information, call Sharon Nichols at Ext. 2790.

Catholic

Sunday:
9:15 a.m. — Mass
5 p.m. — Confessions
5:30 p.m. — SUPT Mass

Protestant

Sunday:
9 a.m. — Adult study and children's one room Sunday school
10:45 a.m. — Combined service (Contemporary/Traditional)
Wednesday:
9:30 a.m. — Ladies Bible study
11:30 a.m. — Lunchtime study
5:30 p.m. — Pot luck supper and Bible study

Religious studies

A chapel community provides a variety of religious studies every Wednesday at the chapel annex. A ladies' study, "Managing Your Time" by Jean Syswerda, is from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.; a lunchtime study, "The Fruit of the Spirit" by Stuart Briscot, is from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; and an evening study, an overview of the Bible led by Tom Marlin, is from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more information, call the chapel at Ext. 2500.

